Modal Verbs

Should, ought to, had better, be supposed to.

Necessity : must and have to
* Have to : when the situation makes it necessary
Must can also expresses a wish :
e.g. I must buy a newspaper. I want to see the racing result.
e.g. We must invite Claire. She's wonderful company.

Necessity : mustn't or needn't

* Don't have to/Don't need to = needn't
Didn't need to/ needn't have + past participle

Possibility and certainty :
may, might, could, must

May, Might : express possibility and likeliness.
Could : small possibility , possible but unlikely

e.g. It may/might/could rain tomorrow.

Negative forms :

- may not/might not = possible
- couldn't = impossible

Must and Can't

Must : something is certainly true.
Can't : something is impossible.

Permission
Can, could, may???

Can, could, may :

Giving and refusing permission :

we can only use "can and may" not "could" to give or refuse permission.

* May is formal and isn't used in speech.

- refusing permission = can't/ may not

Talking about permission :

e.g. can, could, be allowed to

Can, could, be able to, be allowed to

Specific achievement : we use “to be able to“